

GENE TAYLOR
4TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER AND
EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

<http://www.house.gov/genetaylor>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

September 8, 2010

2269 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2404
(202) 225-5772
FAX: (202) 225-7074

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2424 14TH STREET
GULFPORT, MS 39501
(228) 864-7670

701 MAIN STREET
SUITE 215
HATTIESBURG, MS 39401
(601) 582-3246

2900 GOVERNMENT STREET, SUITE B
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS 39564
(228) 872-7950

527 CENTRAL AVENUE
LAUREL, MS 39440
(601) 425-3905

The Honorable Van Zeck
Commissioner
Bureau of Public Debt
799 Ninth Street
Washington, DC 20239

Dear Commissioner Zeck:

I am writing regarding re-employment for individuals who previously worked at the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) in Gulfport, Mississippi.

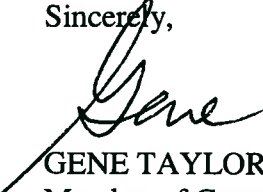
As you well know, the Armed Forces Retirement Home was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. As a result of the storm, ninety-three workers at the AFRH were displaced in 2006. These workers were put on administrative leave so the AFRH could apply a Reduction in Force (RIF).

While 15 of these employees were relocated to Washington, DC, the remaining AFRH staff were forced to find employment elsewhere. Employees at the time were told that they would have the opportunity to get their jobs back when the AFRH re-opened. Now that the AFRH is currently hiring staff and scheduled to open in the near future, I am requesting preference for the employees that are still interested in getting their jobs back.

I understand that the Bureau of Public Debt is in charge of hiring for the AFRH in Gulfport, and I am sending them a similar letter requesting preference for former AFRH employees. I also realize that the AFRH operates under the rules and guidelines established by the Office of Personnel Management. However, Hurricane Katrina has provided a number of challenges and created unique circumstances for Gulf Coast residents. The RIF that forced these workers out of their jobs is another classic example of these challenges that we have to continually work through. The usual standards applied by the Office of Personnel Management do not provide a way for these workers to regain their employment at the home.

I am requesting that the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the Bureau of Public Debt, and the Office of Personnel Management work together to find a way to provide preference to the displaced workers that want their jobs back. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress